

# COMPARING TRAINING PROGRAMS

You may have already identified a desirable occupation and researched the credentials needed to qualify for a specific position. To assist you in choosing a good program, we will identify and compare two apprenticeship programs or schools that support specific goals.

Depending on your career goals, you can complete the Study and Learn Program or the Earn and Learn Program Comparison Chart section or both sections. Each chart has three general sections:

## 1. Program Details

## 2. Estimated Funding and Estimated Expenses

- a. Estimated Funding is the amount of funding you will receive.
  - i. GI Bill
  - ii. Housing allowance
  - iii. Books and supplies (This could include either the stipend or the reimbursement amount)
- b. Estimated Expenses are expenses you are responsible to pay while you attend the school and complete the program.
  - i. There may be a difference between your funding and your expenses based on the program.
  - ii. To avoid a shortfall, compare programs so you can attend the program that best fits your training goals and your budget.



### Quick Tip

*Consider the difference in housing allowance if you plan to enroll only in online classes.*

*Also, if you begin with in-classroom classes and switch to online classes, this may affect your funding.*

## 3. Contact Information

- a. Enter a point of contact along with associated phone number, email address, website URL, and additional information.



## DEMONSTRATION 5.7: PROGRAM COMPARISON CHART

In the following demonstration, we will review how Shondra incorporated research and program comparison information into the **Program Comparison Chart** worksheet section or in the table provided.

She compared two Study and Learn programs and two Earn and Learn programs. The completed charts will provide you with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each program, allowing you to make informed decisions based on the data presented.

## Study and Learn Program Details

First, Shondra compared two Study and Learn programs. She entered the following content under **Program Details** for Eagle Gate College and Emily Griffith Technical College.

Study and Learn Program Details	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
School/Program Name	Eagle Gate College/ Practical Nursing	Emily Griffith Technical (EGT) College/Practical Nursing
Desired Credential	NCLEX-PN/Practical Nursing Diploma	NCLEX-PN/Practical Nursing Certificate
Accreditation	ABHES	ABHES
Length of Program	12 Months	12 Months
Location	Phoenix, AZ	Denver, CO
Program Format	Onsite, in person	Onsite, in person
Application Requirements or Prerequisites	Fill out online form to request admissions assistance	Fill out online form to request admissions assistance
Application Deadline	TBD	TBD
Anticipated Program Start Date and End Date	TBD	TBD
Registration Date	TBD	TBD
Transfer Credit Policy, If Applicable	Veteran/LPN Bridge	N/A
Immunization/Vaccine Requirements	Refer to Eagle Gate College Catalog	Refer to EGT College Catalog
Required Documentation	Refer to Eagle Gate College Catalog	Refer to EGT College Catalog
VA Approved	Yes	Yes



### Quick Tip

Many trade schools recognize the value of military experience and may offer shortened programs as a result. Research if the college has a Bridge program, which acknowledges military experience.



## DEMONSTRATION 5.8: DETERMINE YOUR GI BILL EDUCATION/ TRAINING AND HOUSING BENEFITS

According to VA and DoD Curriculum, you can follow these steps to determine your VA education/ training and housing benefits through the GI Bill.

Shondra started with the GI Bill Comparison Tool.

<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>

She decided whether her search was based on the school's name or location.

Shondra searched by location. Clicked on **Filter your results** and checked or unchecked boxes according to her interests, then clicked **Update** results

She selected a school of interest and reviewed results about the school.

She answered questions in the four sections under **Calculate Your Benefits** to estimate benefits.

Shondra was able to estimate her tuition and housing benefits. This could include either the stipend or the reimbursement amount. She entered the information in the **Program Comparison Chart** worksheet section.

Let's review what Shondra found using the GI Bill. First, she entered information for **Estimated Funding**.

Study and Learn Program Details	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
<b>Estimated Funding:</b> • GI Bill	\$14,900 tuition	\$14,970 tuition
• Monthly Housing Allowance	\$1,797/month	\$2,373/month
• Books/Supplies	Up to \$1,000/annual	Up to \$1,000/annual
• Wages/OJT	\$2,050/month	\$2,050/month

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs.

She entered the following information for **Estimated Expenses**.

Study and Learn Program Details	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
<b>Estimated Expenses:</b> • Tuition	\$16,010	\$13,076
• Housing	\$1,800/month	\$1,525/month
• Books/Supplies	\$1,490	\$1,750

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs.

## Earn and Learn Program Details

Next, Shondra compared two Apprenticeship programs. She entered the following content under **Program Details** for CNA Wellbeing Health Systems and Essentials Health Careers.

Earn and Learn Program Details	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
Job/Program Name	CNA Wellbeing Health Systems (Registered Apprenticeship)	Essentials Health Careers/ PCA to CNA
Job Posted Date	15 November 20XX	13 May 20XX
Desired Credential	National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) <a href="https://www.ncsbn.org/index.page">https://www.ncsbn.org/index.page</a>	National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) <a href="https://www.ncsbn.org/index.page">https://www.ncsbn.org/index.page</a>
DOL Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Program Y/N?	Yes	Yes
Length of Program/ Training	3 months	3 months
Location	Multiple, AZ, CA	Multiple, AZ, CA
Onsite, Remote, or Hybrid	Hybrid	Full-time Remote
Requirements or Qualifications	Contact POC	Contact POC
Application Deadline	TBD	TBD
Job Start Date	TBD	TBD
Number of Positions Available	Multiple	40
Does Advanced Standing for Military Experience Apply to this Apprenticeship?	N/A	Yes
Security Clearance/ Background Check/ Drug Test	Background check & drug testing	Background check & drug testing
Required Documentation	ID only	TB skin test Valid ID SSN
Job Summary	Contact POC for full description	Contact POC for full description
Job Responsibilities	Contact POC for full description	Contact POC for full description
VA Approved	Yes	Yes

Then, Shondra entered information for **Estimated Funding and Expenses**. Be aware that VA funding may have restrictions or may not be applicable for some Earn and Learn programs. Check with the VA prior to submitting an application.

Earn and Learn Program Details	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
<b>Estimated Funding:</b>	\$1550/month	\$1400/month
• GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance		
• GI Bill Books/Supplies	Up to \$1000/annual	Up to \$1000/annual
• Wages/OJT	Negotiable	\$8.00-18.00/hr.
• Housing	Off campus	N/A Remote only

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs.

Lastly, she entered **Contact Information**.

Earn and Learn Program Details	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
<b>Point of Contact (POC):</b>	Jane Smith	Terry Horn
• Phone:	(123) 456-7890	(456) 789-0123
• Email:	janes@wellbeinghealthsys.com	enroll@essentialshhealth.com
• Website:	Wellbeinghealthsys.com	Essentialshhealth.com
Notes:	<a href="https://www.wgu.edu/blog/what-cna-job-description-career-guide2008.html#close">https://www.wgu.edu/blog/what-cna-job-description-career-guide2008.html#close</a>  <a href="https://news.va.gov/115284/take-first-step-health-career-nursing-assistant/">https://news.va.gov/115284/take-first-step-health-career-nursing-assistant/</a>	

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs.



## ACTIVITY 5.9: PROGRAM COMPARISON CHART

Now it's your turn to incorporate research and program comparison information into the **Program Comparison Chart**.

**STEP 1.** Identify programs and/or schools that support your training goals.

**STEP 2.** Complete the **Program Comparison Chart** worksheet section or in the table provided to conduct a side-by-side analysis of each option including using the GI Bill Comparison Tool.  
<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>

**STEP 3.** Add any notes that are relevant to your specific situation.

**STEP 4.** Use any of the following resources to conduct your research. Be sure to use the individual school or program websites for specific details.

### Earn and Learn Resources

- Apprenticeship.gov. <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/>
- USMAP. <https://usmap.osd.mil/index.htm>
- DoD SkillBridge. <https://skillbridge.osd.mil/>

### Study and Learn Resources

- CareerOneStop, <https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-local-training.aspx>
- The College Navigator, <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
- Veterans Affairs, [www.va.gov/education/choosing-a-school/](http://www.va.gov/education/choosing-a-school/)
- College Results (CR), <https://collegeresults.org/>

## Study and Learn Program Comparison Chart

Study And Learn Program Details*	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
School/Program Name		
Desired Credential		
Accreditation		
Length of Program		
Location		
Program Format		
Application Requirements or Prerequisites		
Application Deadline		
Anticipated Program Start Date and End Date		
Registration Date		
Transfer Credit Policy, If Applicable		
Immunization/Vaccine Requirements		
Required Documentation		

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs

## Study and Learn Program Comparison Chart (continued)

Study And Learn Program Details*	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
VA Approved		
<b>Estimated Funding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI Bill Books/Supplies Allowance</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wages/OJT</li> </ul>		
<b>Estimated Expenses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books/Supplies</li> </ul>		
<b>Point of Contact (POC):</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone:</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email:</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website:</li> </ul>		
<b>Notes:</b>		

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs

## Earn and Learn Program Comparison Chart

Earn And Learn Program Details*	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
Job/Program Name		
Job Posted Date		
Desired Credential		
DOL Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Program Y/N?		
Length of Program/ Training		
Location		
Onsite, Remote, or Hybrid		
Requirements or Qualifications		
Application Deadline		
Job Start Date		
Number of Positions Available		
Advanced Standing for Military Experience Apply to this Apprenticeship?		

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs

### Earn and Learn Program Comparison Chart (continued)

Earn And Learn Program Details*	Program 1 Information	Program 2 Information
Security Clearance/ Background Check/ Drug Test		
Required Documentation		
Job Summary		
Job Responsibilities		
VA Approved		
<b>Estimated Funding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI Bill Monthly Housing Allowance</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI Bill Books/Supplies Allowance</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wages/OJT</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> </ul>		
<b>Point of Contact (POC):</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone:</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email:</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website:</li> </ul>		
Notes:		

\*Not all details are relevant to all programs